

Remarks

Claims 1-25 are pending in the application. Claims 1-25 are rejected. Claims 4, 10-19, and 23 are cancelled herein. Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, and 20 are amended herein. No new matter is added. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 10-19 are cancelled only to expedite prosecution of the application and not based on the references cited by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 20 are amended to more distinctly recite the invention.

The invention manages access in a wireless enabled network. It should be understood that the invention is point-of-access specific, meaning that a wireless device authorized to participate in the network may only be prohibited access at the invention, or at some instances of the invention, while permitted at other instances of the invention.

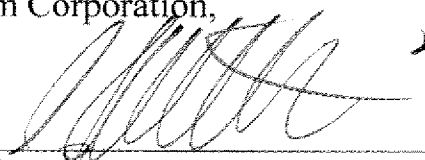
The invention provides a novel way to manage access by both authorized and unauthorized devices. A plurality of distributed firewall units in the network are each configured to provide wireless access to the network for a set of valid wireless access devices associated with the particular firewall unit based on an identification code transmitted wirelessly from a wireless access device. Each unit determines whether the identification code is valid for the particular firewall unit to grant network access to the wireless access device. If so, network access at the particular firewall unit is granted to the wireless access device. If not, network access at the particular firewall unit is denied to the wireless access device.

Spicer is directed to providing authorized access to a network and granting permissions for network resources to users of network terminals. Spicer
Spicer is not concerned with distinguishing between each of a plurality of distributed wireless firewall units that are physical points-of-entry, as in the invention. In short, Spicer determines whether a device (or user) is authorized to utilize network resources, and which network resources. In contrast, the invention determines whether a device, authorized to use the network or not, may use a particular firewall unit as a point of wireless access. If the device is on the list associated with the particular firewall unit, yes. If not, no. Nakamura is referenced to teach numerical passwords and is otherwise useless for making the invention obvious. For the above stated reasons, the examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejection of independent claims 1 and 20. Further, allowance of dependent claims 2, 3, 5-9, 21, 22, and 24-25 is respectfully requested.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should further questions arise concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number listed below. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account 50-3650.

Respectfully submitted,
3Com Corporation,

By



Andrew J. Curtin
Attorney for the Assignee
Reg. No. 48,485

350 Campus Drive
Marlborough, MA 01752
Telephone: (508) 323-1330
Customer No. 56436